

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action issued in the above-identified application, the pending claims have been extensively amended to stress various patentable distinctions of Applicants' invention as compared to the prior art. Accordingly, this Preliminary Amendment is being filed in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination.

In particular, as amended herein Claim 1 requires a sensor wherein a voltage applied to a single electric power voltage input terminal is used to provide three voltages supplied to a sensor block and a signal processing block of the sensor. By this construction the number of input terminals can be substantially reduced as compared to conventional constructions which have the same number of terminals as the number of power sources used within the sensor. Another advantage of the claimed invention is that undesirable noise signals are reduced by reducing the required number of input terminals, even through multiple voltages are used by the circuitry within the sensor.

Referring now to the cited rejecting references, Applicants note that the cited Shintani patent discloses in Fig. 2A that different voltages are supplied including a voltage E1 supplied to a printer section 111, a voltage E2 supplied to an image forming section 202, and a voltage E3 supplied to a camera section 203. However, the Shintani patent does not disclose that plural different voltages are supplied to the sensor block in the present invention, nor that a relative level difference exists between the voltages to be supplied to the signal processing block as defined in newly amended Claim 1 of the present application. Also, the admitted prior art and the cited Ackland patent fail to disclose the first and second level shift means defined in amended Claim 1 of the present application, and in the Specification in connection with Applicants' third embodiment, and elements 4e and 4d of Fig. 9.

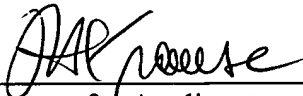
Referring also to the cited Tandon reference, it is seen that Tandon discloses a charge/voltage conversion unit, and discloses that nMOS and CMOS techniques are desirably used to form a sensor array. However, Tandon is silent as to Applicants' claimed requirement that voltages to be supplied to respective transistors are made different.

The remaining cited references all fail to disclose the above-described special features of the present invention, and therefore fail to overcome the deficiencies as rejecting references, of the principal prior art discussed above.

For these various reasons Applicants believe that all of the claims are allowable, and the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
John A. Krause
Registration No. 24,613

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 578955v1